



DR. ROBERT F. WEIR

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Dr. Robert Fulton Weir, who was President of The New York Academy of Medicine from 1900 to 1903, died April 4th at the age of ninety, after a gradual decline of strength due to his years.

He was the last survivor of a distinguished company of surgeons of New York City, among whom were Sands, Markoe, Thomas, Bull, McBurney, McCosh, and Hartley.

As professor of surgery in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, from 1873 to 1903, he taught many of the men of this country now distinguished, who came from all parts to attend his clinics and to watch his operations, and he imbued them with enthusiasm for their profession, as well as sound knowledge of its principles. His wide experience, gained chiefly in the Civil War, in which he served as surgeon in charge of the hospital of Frederick, Maryland, one of the largest Government hospitals, from 1862 to 1865; his ample knowledge of surgery gained by familiarity with home and foreign literature; his skill in the varied lines of operative work; all combined to place him in the front rank of the surgeons of his time. And his genial nature, delightful personal manner, wide interest in art and letters and life outside of his profession, added to the esteem and affection in which he was held by his friends. He visited Europe many times and also went to Japan and China. Those of us who travelled with him found him keen in his appreciation of new places and sights, never weary and easily adapting himself to the discomforts of travel without complaint.

As Attending Surgeon in the New York Hospital from 1876 to 1903 he was an indefatigable worker, without regard for financial return, for during much of that period the hospital was given over to charity patients and private wards were not opened. This industry is evidenced by the very long list of his publications in the medical press during these years, more than a hundred being mentioned in the *History of the College of Physicians and Surgeons* published in 1900. During this period the introduction of Lister's methods of antiseptic and later of aseptic surgery was the subject of the greatest interest, and Prof. Weir was among the first to adopt, urge and teach the modern methods, which

eventually revolutionized surgical procedure. While his chief work was in abdominal surgery, he was the first in this country to operate for a brain tumor under the direction of Seguin, and the success of that operation led him to make many contributions to the surgery of the head and brain. There is hardly any field of surgery in which his published articles do not increase knowledge. And his diagnostic wisdom and good judgment combined with his skill in operative procedure added to his reputation, and in many lines made him the chief authority of his time.

His ability was acknowledged everywhere by his confrères. He was elected president of the American Surgical Association in 1900, member of the International Surgical Association, president of the New York Surgical Society, of the Practitioners' Society, of The New York Academy of Medicine and of the Greater New York Medical Society. In 1895 he was made a corresponding member of the Société de Chirurgie of Paris; and in 1905 an honorary fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. At the close of his hospital service during the Civil War he was publicly thanked in the general orders of the Surgeon-General's Office.

Dr. Weir was twice married. His first wife was Maria Washington McPherson, of Virginia, whom he met during his surgical service in Frederick, and who for many years made his home a delightful centre of entertainment. They had one daughter, Mrs. La Montagne, in whose home Dr. Weir spent the last years of his life. His second wife, who was Mrs. Alden, died a few years after their marriage.

M. ALLEN STARR

ISHAM GREEN HARRIS, M.D., Brooklyn State Hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y.; graduated in medicine from New York University in 1890; elected a Fellow of the Academy January 3, 1918; died April 21, 1927. Dr. Harris was a Fellow of the American Medical Association, a member of the American Psychiatric Society, a member of the Neurological Society and Superintendent of the Brooklyn State Hospital.